

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

### **Playas de Rosarito Wastewater Collection Improvement Projects**

#### **PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering authorizing the award of a Border Environment Infrastructure Fund (BEIF) grant to the Comisión Estatal de Servicios Públicos de Tijuana (CESPT), the local utility for the cities of Tijuana and Playas de Rosarito, for construction of wastewater collection lines to serve existing communities in Playas De Rosarito that lack adequate wastewater disposal. Playas de Rosarito, a municipality comprised of more than 73,000 people, is located on the Pacific coast south of Tijuana, approximately 18 miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

#### **PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The purpose of the proposed action is to address the environmental and public health risks associated with inadequate collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. The proposed action will protect public health by providing appropriate wastewater collection to 20,851 residents that currently lack access to this service. Residents in the communities currently use latrines or open ditches for wastewater disposal. The proposed action will significantly reduce or eliminate the use of inadequate wastewater disposal practices by providing collection service and conveying flows to existing wastewater treatment plants, resulting in improved environmental and sanitation conditions.

The proposed action consists of extending the wastewater collection systems to communities within the municipality of Playas de Rosarito that currently lack access to these services. The project consists of installing about 38 miles (57,000 meters) of wastewater collection (sewer) lines ranging from 8 to 14 inches (20 to 38 centimeters) in diameter. Raw wastewater generated by these communities is estimated at 1.39 million gallons per day (60.7 liters per second). All wastewater collected by the new sewer lines will be treated at the existing Rosarito and Rosarito Norte wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs). These WWTPs provide secondary treatment prior to discharge to the Pacific Ocean.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES AND CONDITIONS**

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), EPA has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) that analyzes the potential transboundary environmental impacts of the proposed action. After considering a wide range of regulatory, environmental (both natural and human) and socio-economic factors, the EA did not identify any significant impacts to the environment that would result from the implementation of the proposed wastewater collection system improvements.

Environmental impacts in Mexico are addressed in the *Manifestación de Impacto Ambiental*, which was prepared in accordance with the environmental impact review process of the Secretaría de Protección al Ambiente de Baja California. This analysis

supports a determination that the proposed infrastructure project will not have a significant adverse impact on human health and the environment in Mexico.

#### **PUBLIC REVIEW**

The EA is on file, along with other project materials, and is available for public inspection at the EPA Region 9 office in San Francisco, California. This EA and FNSI can also be viewed on-line on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/region9/border>. Copies of the EA are also available for public review at the EPA San Diego Border Office, 610 West Ash Street, Suite 905, San Diego (telephone: (619) 235-4765).

Interested persons, including those who disagree with this proposal, may submit comments to EPA Region 9 within 30 calendar days from the day this document is issued. No administrative action will be taken on this proposed project prior to the expiration date of this comment period. Comments, via letter, fax or email, should be sent to Susan Cox at the address listed below:

Susan Cox (WTR-4)  
U.S. EPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
Telephone (415) 972-3555  
Fax (415) 947-3537  
Email [cox.susan@epa.gov](mailto:cox.susan@epa.gov)

After EPA assesses any comments received, those comments, EPA responses, and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be forwarded to the Regional Administrator for review and signature. If this FNSI is signed by the Regional Administrator, it will not be re-circulated for review but will be available to any individual upon request.

#### **FINDING**

After review of the EA and any comments received, EPA has determined that the proposed wastewater collection improvement projects for Playas de Rosarito will not have a significant impact on the environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared for this project.

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Wayne Nastri  
Regional Administrator

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Date